REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 1-8, 11 and 16-23 are pending in this application. Claims 9, 10 and 12-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 11 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 3-8, 11 and 16-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Perlman et al, U.S. Patent 6,023,585; and claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Perlman et al. The rejections are traversed for the following reasons.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 4 and 11 to set forth that the invention is directed to installing software in a customized computer that is built in accordance with a regular practice or scheme known as built-to-order (BTO). In the BTO scheme, an order for a computer is received from a user and the computer is custom manufactured and sold to the user according to the user's requirements. Typically, the user specifies the CPU, memory, hard disk, etc., as well as application software to be preinstalled. A vendor assembles the components on the basis of the order and completes the custom computer system as a product, delivering it to the user. *See* page 8, line 14 - page 9, line 1 of the specification.

According to the invention, a client database manages, for every user ID, the information of the users who make orders for custom built computers according to the BTO

scheme. Identification information of the user and the user's computer system updates (software) for their computer system is stored in the client or first database. System configuration information, such as the hardware elements of each computer system, is stored in a system configuration or second database and establishes correspondence between the product IDs and the system configurations. Figure 2 shows a system configuration data base in which the system configuration information is stored for every product ID. A hardware/software (H/S) management database respectively manages the software elements required for the hardware elements (Fig. 3). In particular, the H/S management data base manages file names of the software elements required for each of the hardware elements.

According to the invention, a vendor operating server system 2 can refer to the data registered in the data bases. Applicants recognize that with the computers or client systems 1 made according to the BTO scheme, the system configurations differ among the respective users, and therefore recovery from problems, for example in which software recovery is necessary, can be difficult, even when recovery CDs are available to the user since not all of the software elements will supported. Accordingly, for the non-supported software elements, the client system 1 can send to the server system 2 the product ID stored in the client and order a download of the software elements from the server system 2 and conduct installation processing. *See* page 13, lines 3-12 of the Specification.

Perlman et al discloses a method of installing device drivers in a host processing system coupled to a number of peripheral devices. A device code is received from a peripheral device and transmitted to a remote processing system so that an appropriate device

driver is sent in response. See, for example, Figure 5 which shows a WebTV client system 1a in which the WebTV box 10 is connected to a number of peripheral devices 30 such as keyboards, pointing devices, monitors, printers, etc. See column 5, lines 1-9 of Perlman et al. The device codes that are used by the WebTV box to request and receive the appropriate drivers for the peripheral devices 30 are 64-bit codes stored within a register in the peripheral device. See column 6, lines 1-10 of Perlman et al. The WebTV box 10 receives the device codes from all connected peripheral devices 30 and transmits them over the internet to the WebTV server 5. WebTV server 5 has stored in memory the device drivers for all the peripheral devices that may be used in a WebTV client system and a database including the device codes of all the peripheral devices. Once the appropriate drivers are identified the WebTV server 5 automatically downloads these device drivers to the WebTV client 1a over the internet and the WebTV box 10 receives and automatically installs the device drivers.

Applicants note that the WebTV server 5 of Perlman et al does not have configuration information of the WebTV box 10 that indicates the way in which the WebTV box 10 is configured. Perlman et al do not disclose or suggest the need for software recovery of a user's computer that has been customized according to a user's order and supplied to a user under a BTO scheme. Perlman et al do not disclose transmitting any identification information of the WebTV box 10. Perlman merely discloses the collecting of device codes from peripheral devices 30 which are relayed in a daisy chain toward the WebTV box 10 (step 601, Fig. 6 of Perlman et al). Then, the WebTV box 10 transmits all of the received device codes to the WebTV server 5.

In order to collect the device codes in Perlman et al, the WebTV box 10 needs to recognize all peripheral devices connected thereto in the daisy chain. See column 6, lines 22-54 of Perlman et al. Accordingly, Perlman et al merely disclose identifying peripheral devices and supplying the peripheral devices with device drivers without regard to storing identification information of a device comparable to a user's computer system, along with system configuration information, associated with the identification information that indicates hard work components of the user's computer system. Accordingly, Perlman et al does not disclose sending to a user's computer system, the software components required for operation of the hardware components of the user's computer system that are determined from the storage system configuration information associated with the identification information.

In each of the independent claims, applicants set forth that the determined software components are sent to the user's computer system as a result of storing identification information for identifying a computer system supplied to a user and system configuration information associated with the identification information that indicates hardware components of the computer system. For example, as set forth in claim 1, the software installation method is used for a user's computer which is customized according to a user's order and supplied to a user under a BTO scheme. Claim 1 further includes storing identification information of the user's computer system and system configuration information associated with the identification information indicating hardware components of the user's computer system and accepting from the user's computer system the identification

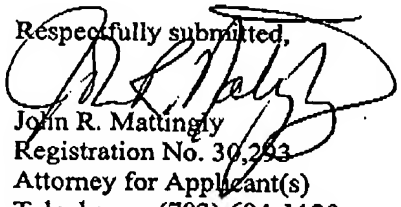
information of the user's computer system. These aspects of the invention are not disclosed by Perlman et al, and therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) should be withdrawn.

Perlman et al is also relied upon in the rejection of claim 2, however claim 2 is patentable over Perlman et al, at least for depending from claim 1 as a base claim, and therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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